FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 JUNE 1984

Gulf Conflict

Military Situation — Iraqi warplanes attacked four "large maritime targets" south of Khark Island early on 24 June, scoring accurate and effective hits, a military communique carried by INA announced. A Greek tanker was hit in the attack while loading at Khark, but the missile did not cause serious damage and the ship was able to proceed toward Dubayy, according to Athens radio. The latest Iraqi attack came after London shipping insurers had begun reducing their rates on cargoes shipped to and from Khark Island in light of the absence of attacks during the previous 2 weeks, AFP noted. Baghdad's *ATH-THAWRAH* said the new attack was "tangible confirmation" that Iraq's blockade of Khark and other Iranian ports will continue and escalate until the Iranian rulers are "choked to death," INA reported. The paper warned that Iraq will respond to any new "aggression" by destroying and burning the terminal and by striking at vital strategic targets inside Iran, adding that the Iraqi Army is ready to crush any Iranian offensive. An "informed source" cited by Tehran radio viewed the Iraqi attack as an attempt to "blackmail" the GCC chiefs of staff, who began an emergency meeting in Riyadh the previous evening.

Meanwhile, in communiques and statements broadcast by Baghdad and Voice of the Masses radios, Iraq accused Iran of shelling civilian targets in Basra Governorate on the nights of 21-22 and 24-25 June. An Iranian spokesman cited by IRNA denied the Iraqi accusations, stating that Iraq was making such claims to justify future attacks on Iranian civilian targets. An Iranian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman likewise dismissed the Iraqi foreign minister's earlier accusations that Iran had shelled civilian targets and was massing troops in Abadan and Khorramshahr, asserting in a statement reported by Tehran radio that Iraq is preparing a new attack on Iranian residential areas. He also affirmed that Iran has no objection to the deployment of a UN inspection team to monitor observance of the mutual undertaking not to hit civilian targets, adding that a UN delegation will arrive in Tehran on 26 June to discuss arrangements in this regard.

In another development, IRNA announced that Iran has acquired documents from a U.S. Air Force base in Spain showing that the United States supplied Iraq with mustard gas which was used against Iran's offensive in February. IRNA also cited reports that Chile has begun shipping cluster bombs to Iraq.

GCC Meeting — The GCC chiefs of staff discussed military cooperation during their meeting in Riyadh on 23 June, according to SPA. Radio Monte Carlo said the conferees recommended granting some $2 billion to Oman to help it develop its air defense system and improve its radar network in the Strait of Hormuz to monitor any Iranian attempt to obstruct navigation there. "Well informed sources" cited by the radio also disclosed that the chiefs of staff formulated plans for a new military strategy whereby the armed forces of the GCC states will come under a "semiunified" command and will carry out military moves to protect the territorial waters of these states.

Kuwaiti Security — Kuwait intends to take effective security measures to tighten control over its coastline and territorial waters and prevent infiltration into the country by sea, the Kuwaiti interior minister announced in a press statement reported by KUNA. Noting that 30 infiltrators have been arrested, he said the authorities will thoroughly search every vessel that approaches the Kuwaiti coastline.

Jerusalem Day — Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, in a Friday sermon carried by Tehran radio, called on the Islamic world to observe International Jerusalem Day on 29 June, stressing Iran's refusal to accept the existence of Israel and its commitment to "move toward the Zionists and utterly extirpate this cancer" as soon as it has successfully concluded the war with the Iraqi regime, which is "at the service of the Zionists."

Iran

Soviet Delegation — The visiting Soviet delegation headed by Deputy Power and Electricity Minister Aleksey Makukhin discussed construction activities at the Esfahan and Ahvaz power plants during talks with officials in Tehran on 24 June, IRNA reported.

Khalkhali — Judge Sadeq Khalkhali was among a number of deputies whose election credentials were referred to the investigation commission of the Majlis, Tehran radio noted.

Lebanon

After a lengthy meeting in Bikfayya on 23 June, the Cabinet appointed a new Army commander and members of the Military Council and also created a General Directorate for State Security, Beirut radio announced. The new commander is General Michel 'Awn, who replaces General Ibrahim Tannus. The Military Council will meet shortly under 'Awn's chairmanship to discuss plans to restore security in Beirut and reopen crossing points and public services as a first step toward reuniting the capital, the radio noted. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad subsequently telephoned President Amin al-Jumayyil to congratulate the Lebanese leader on his Cabinet's decisions, expressing hope that all sides will continue to cooperate and promote reconciliation, the radio reported.

The security situation in the capital remained precarious as 5 people were killed and about 50 others were wounded in further shelling on 23 June, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. While the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon accused gunmen in West Beirut of exacerbating the situation just before the Cabinet meeting, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio blamed the Lebanese Forces for the fighting, asserting that they had responded to Gen Tannus' resignation by attempting to advance on nationalist positions in central Beirut.

Meanwhile, an Austrian diplomat was murdered in West Beirut and a Libyan diplomat was abducted from his hotel by an extremist Shi'ite group demanding that Libya release Imam Musa as-Sadr, the Lebanese Shi'ite leader who disappeared in Libya in 1978, Voice of Lebanon reported. Security men from the Amal Movement subsequently stormed the site where the Libyan was held, freeing him alive and well, according to Beirut radio.

In the Al-Biqa' valley, Israeli troops set fire to cornfields near the cease-fire line on 22 June, but the fire spread to nearby minefields, sparking explosions which caused panic among local residents, AFP reported. The Israeli measure followed an attack on an IDF unit near 'Ammiq in which an IDF soldier was wounded and two "terrorists" were killed, according to Jerusalem radio.

Egypt

In a speech to the People's Assembly and Consultative Council broadcast by Cairo radio, President Husni Mubarak stated that he neither seeks nor accepts the position of president for life. Voicing the opinion that holders of the office should be limited to two terms, Mubarak said he is pleased to be "the first Egyptian president to whom this rule will apply."

Regarding the Iran-Iraq war, Mubarak said Egypt feels duty-bound to take "new steps in the coming weeks." He appealed to Iran to build "bridges of dialogue" and to end the conflict, adding that while Egypt is not a party to the war, it wishes to be a partner in establishing peace. Mubarak also called for a "coordinated Arab stand" on the Palestinian problem and asserted that any Israeli delay in withdrawing from Lebanon will produce "negative results" threatening peace and security in the area.

The newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH*, according to MENA, reported that Egypt and the USSR will exchange ambassadors "within a few weeks." The paper said Ambassador Salah Basyuni is expected to be named as envoy to the Soviet Union.

PLO Affairs

The third session of the intra-Palestinian dialogue resumed in Aden on 23 June following a week-long break that enabled the participating delegations to hold consultations with their respective leaderships, Aden radio reported.

Western Sahara

The Moroccan newspaper *AL-MITHAQ AL-WATANI* described recent reported Polisario attacks against Moroccan forces as "imaginary," asserting that the visit of an international group of journalists to the "Moroccan Saharan provinces" has uncovered these "lies," according to MAP.

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Soviet Air Strikes Kill 700 in Baghlan Province

BK251252 Hong Kong AFP in English 1245 GMT 25 Jun 84

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, June 25 (AFP) — Intensive Soviet air strikes against northern Afghan villages controlled by Moslem rebels have left 700 civilians dead and sent another 2,000 fleeing into Pakistan, a resistance source said today.

According to the Afghan ISLAMIC PRESS AGENCY, Soviet bombers began with an attack on the Dahaneh-ye Ghowri bazaar in Afghanistan's mountainous northern Baghlan Province on May 28, destroying 250 shops and killing scores of civilians. Then beginning last Monday, bombers in formations of two to 14 have returned daily to strike neighboring villages, completely destroying one, the source said.

Leading onto the Salang Highway which links the Soviet Union to Kabul, the Dahaneh-ye Ghowri valley has served as a rear base for rebel groups attacking convoys travelling the strategic route.

The offensive against Baghlan Province follows earlier Soviet drives in April and May against the Panjsher valley and the western province of Herat, both centers of organized rebel activity. Sources in this Pakistani town near the Afghan border said families fleeing Baghlan were in turn attacked by pro-Iranian Afghan guerrillas and stripped of their goods.

Travellers from northern Afghanistan, meanwhile, said rebels resumed their attacks on convoys along the Salang Highway early this month, destroying or damaging nearly 200 vehicles.

Herat Death Toll Put at 2,000

BK221542 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jun 84

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, at least 2,000 persons have been killed so far by Soviet-Karmal aircraft bombing three subdivisions of Herat Province for the last 2 weeks. These reports say that Soviet-Karmal contigents have launched a massive campaign to arrest innocent people in the region in their pursuit of the mujahidin.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin attacked two Soviet-Karmal military convoys at a region north of (?Shingan) early this month. (?Several) Soviet-Karmal soldiers were killed and a number of tanks were damaged. The mujahidin also captured a large number of arms and ammunition.

Radio Kabul has reported fighting in Parvan, Balkh, and Paktia Provinces.

Resistance Leader Rejects Soviet Proposals

GF231000 Doha QNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Jun (QNA) — Jalaleddin Haqqani, vice president of the military committee of the Islamic Union for Afghan Mujahidin, reiterated the mujahidin's rejection of Soviet proposals for reconciliation and the need for a government in Afghanistan free and independent of the Soviet Union. The Soviets are trying by all means to impose a settlement on the mujahidin now that they have begun to realize that capitulation and defeat are completely out of the question, particularly after the mujahidin's steadfastness against the Soviet forces and the agent Afghan Government forces for almost 4 years despite the lack of ammunition and resources.

In a statement published in today's issue of the newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD*, Haqqani said the mujahidin now control 92 percent of the Afghan countryside, while the occupation forces are stationed in the main cities, which the mujahidin attack continuously. He affirmed that fighting is the only way for the Afghans to liberate Afghanistan from the Soviets. He noted that this war can be immediately settled in the mujahidin's favor if a real union is achieved among them in which there is nothing of the current differences which sometimes lead to infighting between the (?mujahidin) themselves. He said contacts are under way among the various front leaders to unite their ranks and establish a union among them to prevent the Soviets from fighting each group individually.

Security Forces Continue To Score Victories

Faryab Province Subversives Crushed

LD221825 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Jun 84

[Text] As a result of the successful operations of the security forces in the environs of Qeysar District and Almar subdistrict, Faryab Province, a number of the counterrevolutionaries and subversive elements who had been causing annoyance to our people were recently crushed along with their ringleaders.

A spokesman of the security forces of Faryab Province told the BAKHTAR correspondent that 1 rocket launcher, 21 light weapons with about 250 rounds of ammunition, 1 antipersonnel mine, 9 antitank mines, and 1 pair of binoculars were seized in these operations, and that 28 assorted weapons, 1 DShK, and 2 rocket launchers of the criminals were destroyed.

Jami'at Members Recant

LD221832 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jun 84

[Excerpt] In accordance with the amnesty decree of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium and the message of the nationwide session of the country's national figures, 300 armed persons belonging to the Jami'at band came over to the side of government in Banow, capital of Andarab district, Baghlan Province. Two hundred of these persons, who were led by Laqa, son of Haji Salem Shah, and the other 100 persons led by Mohammad Aziz, son of Sayd Jan, handed over to the government 2 DShK's, 2 rocket launchers, 98 infantry weapons, and a quantity of ammunition.

Detention Conditions of National Security Act Amended

BK221605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 84

[Text] The president has promulgated an ordinance further amending the National Security Act to make it more effective. Under this, grounds of detention can be made separate. Earlier, the grounds were viewed as a whole and if one of the several grounds was held to be infirm, the detention order was considered bad in law. Similar provision exists in the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act. The ordinance seeks to provide that the expiry or revocation of a detention order will not bar the making of another detention order against the same person. The issue of subsequent detention order will, however, be subject to the condition that the maximum period of detention of 1 year in general cases and 2 years for disturbed areas of Punjab and Chandigarh will remain unaffected.

An official press note says some states have been pressing for amending certain provisions of the National Security Act to make it more practicable.

Government Continues Tightening Visa Requirements

OW222334 Hong Kong AFP in English 2258 GMT 22 Jun 84

[Text] New Delhi, June 22 (AFP) — The Indian Government has suspended issue of landing permits from Sunday for nationals of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Iceland, and Maldives arriving in India without visas.

Nationals from these countries must obtain visas from Indian embassies or missions before leaving for India, an official statement said.

Those already in India on landing permits granted for 90 days would be allowed to remain in the country for the full duration of the permit, the statement added.

Developments in Sikh-Government Confrontation

Some Political Discussions Banned

BK250755 Hong Kong AFP in English 0733 GMT 25 Jun 84

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, June 25 (AFP) — Flags of the "independent Sikh state of Khalistan" appeared in parts of Punjab today as the state administration banned all political discussions in government offices, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported today. The saffron-coloured, pear-shaped flags and handwritten posters appeared in parts of the industrial district of Ludhiana proclaiming the creation of "Khalistan," meaning the land of the pure. The posters called on Sikhs to prepare for a "long war with the sole aim — creation of Khalistan," while others said they should prepare to join the "Khalistan Army."

Sikh militants have been demanding secession from the Indian union and formation of a separate Sikh state. The government claims that the pro-Khalistan group is a small minority and does not enjoy widespread support in Punjab.

PTI quoted informed sources as saying that the flags were seen on top of government offices in Boparai and Narangal. Handwritten posters were seen at many places.

PTI, quoting government officials, said that police carried out several raids in the state but there was no report of any arrests.

Meanwhile, PTI said in a dispatch from the state capital, Chandigarh, that political discussions in government offices and educational institutions in the state had been banned. No reason was given for the ban but the government circular said "appropriate action will be taken against anyone found indulging in such discussions.... Heads of offices and departments will be held responsible for violation of these instructions."

Meanwhile, a prominent member in Mrs. Gandhi's Cabinet today ruled out any negotiations for the time being with the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, on the Punjab issue. "This is not the time to do so, (although) we are ready to consider the demands of the Akali Dal," Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee told newsmen in the east Indian city of Calcutta. "There is no meaning in holding talks until complete normalcy was restored in the Punjab.... And there is little possibility of an early resumption of talks," he said.

Gandhi Visits Golden Temple

BK230905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] The prime minister today visited the Golden Temple in Amritsar and remained there for about half an hour. Mrs Gandhi was accompanied by the Punjab governor, Mr B.D. Pande; Lieutenant General Dayal, Major General Brar; and other high civil and military officials. The union minister for parliamentary affairs, Mr Buta Singh, also accompanied the prime minister. Mrs Gandhi paid a darshan [respect] to the Golden Temple and listened to kirtan [holy recital].

As reported earlier, the prime minister has written to several world leaders explaining the present situation in Punjab and giving the background of the events leading to the Army action. The letters have been sent to the U.S. President, Mr Reagan; the Soviet leader, Mr Chernenko; the French president, Mr Mitterrand; the Canadian prime minister, Mr Trudeau; the Zambian president, Mr Kenneth Kaunda; the Tanzanian president, Mr Nyerere; and the Algerian president, Mr Chadli Bendjedid; besides the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher. An official spokesman said in New Delhi that Mrs Gandhi will be sending similar letters to some more leaders.

Gandhi on Temple Storming

BK250949 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Jun 84

[Text] The prime minister has said that the government's action perhaps saved the Golden Temple from serious damage from the

terrorists. In an interview to an American magazine she doubted whether the temple would have remained intact if the terrorists continued acting as they were inside the temple because some of the damage was done with their own grenades and explosives. Mrs Gandhi emphasized that the security forces' action was not against the Golden Temple of the Sikh people but against a small group which was using the temple for their own purpose. Mrs Gandhi said that she could not say how long the Army would continue to stay there as a peacekeeping force, because they are still finding weapons. However, she asserted that they would not stay any longer (?than) absolutely necessary.

Civil Service Makeup Reviewed

BK221619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 84

[Text] The Center has decided to restore the rule that 50 percent of the officers of All-India Services in a state should be from outside that state. The prime minister today directed the cabinet secretary to work out a method by which this regional position is brought back at the earliest. Mrs Gandhi gave this direction while addressing a meeting of the secretaries of various central ministries and departments in New Delhi today.

The prime minister reviewed the situation in Punjab and the functioning of the government in tackling various economic problems. Referring to the civil services, Mrs Gandhi said they are not only instrumental in implementing the various programs of the government but have also to play a vital role in preserving the unity and integrity of the country. The rule to have 50 percent of outsiders in the All-India Services is to ensure that the officers are not subjected to local pressures and will be able to take an objective view with a wider national perspective. In some states this rule got diluted and systematic attempts had been made to remove the outside officers from key posts. We should get back to this system, she added.

The prime minister also underlined the need to eradicate corruption, particularly from those departments which come into contact with public, like the railways, banks, and various checkposts.

On Punjab, Mrs Gandhi said the extremists had a long-term sinister motive in accumulating a large number of weapons and this is nothing to do with the political demands made by the Akali leaders. Earlier, whenever the home minister raised the question of the activities of the extremists, the Akali leaders said that it was an extraneous matter and not linked with their demands. Smugglers, naxalites [extremist group], and other antisocial groups took advantage of the situation created by the extremists, who not only terrorized people, including Sikhs, who did not agree with them, but also wanted to show up that the government was powerless.

More Arrests, Arms Recoveries

BK240430 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jun 84

[Excerpt] The security forces have apprehended 42 more suspected terrorists from different parts of Punjab since yesterday. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, 9 pistols, about 100 cartridges, and 1 high explosive grenade have been recovered from their possession. One suspect was killed in an encounter with police near Banga in Jullundur District yesterday. The suspect opened fire at a police party which had come to apprehend him. The suspect was killed when the police returned fire.

In Amritsar, 335 persons rounded up by the security forces during their operation against the terrorists have been released. They include over 83 employees of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temple Management] Committee [SGPC]. According to an agency report, the release includes former Akali member of Parliament, Mr Ghalwan Singh Ramoowalia, and secretaries of the SGPC, Mr (Baran Singh) and Mr Avinashi Singh.

Curfew in Faridkot District has been further extended to next Tuesday. However, daytime relaxation from 0500-2000 will be continued.

Golden Temple Opened to Public

BK250740 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Jun 84

[Text] In Amritsar, the general public has been allowed free entry into the Golden Temple from today. This morning they were allowed for 2 hours from 0630 to 0830. All-India Radio correspondent Parmesh Kashyap reports that more than 10,000 devotees visited the Golden Temple and offered prayers. The devotees included women and children and also Hindus. The local commander, Major General Brar, told our correspondent that the authorities are thinking of increasing the hours of entry gradually. This evening the people from outskirts of Amritsar will be allowed to visit the temple.

Questioning of Detainees Completed

BK221309 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 22 Jun 84

[From "Radio Newsreel"]

[Text] The Indian Government says that preliminary screening of Sikh extremists taken into custody after recent operations in Punjab has now been completed. The home secretary, Mr Wali, said the next aim is to get the provincial administration working again. Ian Hall reports:

[Begin recording] The home secretary said that preliminary questioning of those detained during the past 2 weeks of searches in Punjab was now complete and those found innocent were being released. More than 4,000 people have been rounded up in the state since the Army launched its antiterrorist operation early this month.

The home secretary also said that border patrols and checkposts had been strengthened both to prevent arms smuggling and to stop extremists escaping. He said extremists might have been

leaving India not only across the border into Pakistan but also into another neighboring country, which he did not name.

When he was asked how effectively the government could prevent smuggling from Pakistan, he said the border area was densely populated and the authorities could not completely eliminate the possibility that some people would still manage to carry weapons into India.

The home secretary said that a high-level government working group was meeting daily to take stock of the situation in Punjab. This group was, among other things, devising measures to put the administration in the state back on the rails after, what he called its total breakdown.

Home Ministry sources say a government white paper on the Sikh extremist movement and the steps taken to deal with it will be ready for publication soon. [end recording]

Curfew Imposed Following Clash in Gujarat State

BK230921 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] In Gujarat, curfew has been imposed in the Bardoli town of Surat District for an indefinite period. This followed a clash between two groups of people yesterday.

There was no untoward last night in Jamnagar City, where curfew was imposed following clashes between two groups of people. According to the state police, the curfew has been relaxed in the city from this morning for the daytime.

Over 75 Injured

OW231754 Hong Kong AFP in English 1742 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] New Delhi, June 23 (AFP) — Over 75 people were injured in renewed violence in Bardoli in Surat District of western coastal state Gujarat yesterday, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA [PTI] reported today.

According to PTI news agency, yesterday's trouble started during the relaxation of curfew in the daytime when a group of people marched in a procession defying a ban on assembly of more than four persons.

The processionists clashed with another group on their way and the police opened fire when baton charge and tear gas proved futile, PTI said quoting the statement of Home Minister Prabodh Raval. None was injured in the firing but 76 persons were hurt in the clash and baton charge.

A total of 160 people had been arrested till this evening for various (?offences), including (?breaking the) curfew restrictions both in Bardili and neighbouring Jamnagar town where also a similar clashes occurred yesterday and today.

Two incidents of stabbing were reported last night and one this morning when the curfew was relaxed.

The curfew, which was clamped on Thursday night after two persons were stabbed to death [words indistinct] between rival groups, was reimposed after today's incident, the report added.

The report, however, did not identify the two groups involved, but they are believed to be Hindus and Moslems.

Army Deployed in Bombay as 'Precautionary' Step

BK250542 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jun 84

[Text] In Bombay, some Army units have been deployed since last night in Dadar, Verli, and Parel areas as a precautionary measure. According to the state police, the Army was called in, as tension prevails in Kherwari area in Bandra over the arrest of a local leader. Sporadic incidents of stonethrowing were also reported from the Kherwari area where dusk-to-dawn curfew has been imposed for the last 3 days.

Bomb Blasts Precede Planned Blockade in Assam

BK250802 Hong Kong AFP in English 0745 GMT 25 Jun 84

[Text] New Delhi, June 25 (AFP) — Bomb blasts and other stray acts of violence preceded a 24-hour "road blockade" that got under way in Assam early today, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. The protest was called by the All-Assam Students Union and Assam People's Action Council, who in the past four years have spearheaded a campaign for the detection and deportation of an estimated five million so-called illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and Nepal. The campaign turned into mass violence in February 1983, when as many as 10,000 were killed in violence during a state election campaign.

Official sources quoted by PTI from Gauhati, the Assamese capital, said a powerful blast blew off some 60 centimetres (two feet) of the railway track near Tezpur town, just about an hour before the lastest campaign officially began at 5 a.m. (2330 GMT yesterday). There were no casualties and train services were resumed soon after, PTI said. The protestors had sponsored a 24-hour general strike across the northeastern state on June 15, reportedly crippling normal life in the state.

Last night unknown attackers hurled a bomb at the residence of a police official at Sootia in Sonitpur District. His wife and two children suffered minor injuries, the sources told PTI. A police patrol foiled an attempt to set a culvert on fire near Rangapara last night, PTI said. No details were available. Police arrested one person at Jaukbari on Gauhati's suburb on the charges of smashing the windscreen of a moving vehicle, the agency added.

There were no reports of violence anywhere after the strike got underway, PTI said. Private vehicles were off the roads while the state-run transport corporation maintained a skeleton service in Gauhati and on long-distrance routes. Earlier news reports from Assam said a number of people were rounded up in a state-wide police crackdown on the eve of the strike. The exact number was not known.

Allegations of Chinese Nuclear Aid Denied

BK231006 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] A Pakistani Embassy spokesman in London has strongly rejected the allegations in connection with Pakistan's nuclear program and that China is assisting Pakistan in the nuclear field. The Pakistani Government has repeatedly clarified the fact that its nuclear program is completely for peaceful purposes and is aimed at meeting the increasing energy needs for development and the welfare of people. The spokesman said that Pakistan has no plan to manufacture nuclear weapons. The spokesman rejected the reports that Pakistan is preparing nuclear fuel of the grade used for the production of nuclear weapons. The spokesman said that so far experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency have inspected 48 times the soie nuclear plant of Pakistan in Karachi.

Western Aid Denial May Cause Appeal to USSR

GF231012 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 18 Jun 84 p 3

[Editorial: "The Chashma Nuclear Project — the U.S. Negative Interest!"]

[Excerpts] The federal minister for planning and development, Dr Mahbubul Haq, has said that no serious reply has been received for the international tenders which were offered 3 years ago. He was speaking at a press conference on the 6th development plan. While he was elaborating on the second year of the plan which commences on 1 July, he was asked a question about the allocation of 49 crores of rupees for the Chashma nuclear project under the new federal budget.

This statement by Dr Mahbubul Haq is more of an official declaration than a revelation, because the indifference of the Western countries to this important Pakistani project as a result of U.S. pressure is no secret. The only difference is that what was mentioned in an undertone at home or what was mentioned as speculation or information has now been spelled out in definite terms by Dr Mahbubul Haq for the first time. Although he has expressed the hope that the international community will cooperate with Pakistan on this important project which could provide the cheapest source of energy, his hope can only be deemed a noble desire, because the United States, which is considered Pakistan's ally and friend, has displayed a very negative interest in this matter with undesirable repercussions; and this policy continues. Despite its statement that Pakistan's freedom and security are an important pillar of its foreign policy, U.S. "blessings" are the reason that France reneged on its bilateral agreement to provide Pakistan with a reprocessing plant and that none of the Western countries is willing to display some positive interest in this important Pakistani project.

The innuendos dropped from time to time by the Zionist-influenced mass media regarding Pakistan's nuclear program also contain the fabrication that the PRC has provided nuclear technology to Pakistan or that Pakistan has exploded a nuclear device with PRC cooperation in China's Xinjiang Province, although Pakistan and the PRC have repeatedly refuted such misleading reports. The Zionist elements and Western media have adopted a policy of spreading rumors and then demanding clarifications from Pakistan and the PRC. Although this policy of the Western countries and the United States dates back to the traditional hostility of the Western prejudice against the Muslims, it is extremely narrow-minded and opportunistic. For more than 25 years these countries had been opposing the construction of an iron and steel mill in Pakistan. But now the complex has been set up with Soviet cooperation. During Finance Minister Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan's visit to Moscow, the Soviet Union expressed interest in various projects including the thermal power plant in Multan, the Kalabagh dam and the Chashma nuclear project. If the Western countries continue in their indifferent attitude due to U.S. pressure, Pakistan will be forced to seek Soviet cooperation. Whatever the results or repercussions, they will enhance Soviet influence and not that of the United States, which professes to be Pakistan's friend and ally and which allegedly considers Pakistan's freedom and security a cornerstone of its policy.

By entering the sphere of Soviet influence will Pakistan be able to avoid becoming another Afghanistan or not? This is an important question, but if the United States continues its policy of opposition for the sake of opposition and its present negative interest, this will ultimately be shortsighted on the part of the Western countries and the United States. The United States is a huge country, a superpower, but it has entrusted all its decisions and authority regarding its relations and ties with the Muslim world to the Zionist lobby and the State of Israel, which is no bigger than a mango seed and this in itself is an enigma, a tragedy as to why such a great country has reduced itself to such pettiness in this matter.

USSR Offers Assistance in Oil Prospecting

GF241331 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 14 Jun 84 p 1

[Text] Karachi, 12 June (PPI) — Iran will sign an agreement with Pakistan OGDC [Oil and Gas Development Corporation] for providing a drilling rig and crew to Pakistan and another formal agreement will be signed next year. OGDC has also received offers from a French company and the Soviet Tekhnoeksport company for the development of the Dhodak oilfield. The OGDC has studied these offers and will soon announce its decision.

Foreign Minister To Participate in Afghan Talks

BK221124 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jun 84

[Text] The UN-sponsored indirect talks on Afghanistan will resume in Geneva on 24 August. This was announced by a UN spokesman. Pakistan's foreign minister and the foreign minister of the Karmal regime of Afghanistan are to take part in the indirect talks. The UN authorities say that Iran will not represent itself in the Geneva talks. However, it will be kept informed of the talks. The talks will last until the end of August or 1 September. The indirect Geneva talks are being held following the visits by UN secretary general special representative Cordovez to Kabul, Islamabad, and Tehran in April.

BANGLADESH

Ershad Takes on Foreign Affairs Portfolio

BK231005 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] An official announcement in Dhaka last night said the president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, will look after the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The deputy chief martial law administrator and agriculture minister, Rear Admiral M.A. Khan, will look after the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources, and Flood Control in addition to his own (?portfolio).

SRI LANKA

Government Affirms Readiness To Confront 'Extremists'

BK231155 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, said yesterday that the government was ready to meet any attempt by extremist elements to bring out the schoolchildren on Monday to keep alive the agitation that flared up in the campuses this week. At a news conference the minister emphasized that no one would be given the opportunity to meddle with the education of schoolchildren. All children should attend the school on Monday. If necessary, parents could accompany them.

The minister pointed out that only a very small number of university students were behind this agitation. It was a great pity that two lives had been lost. He was grateful that the majority of undergraduates had accepted an unpalatable decision to close the campuses and despite transport, money, and other difficulties had peacefully gone to their homes. No attempt would be made to whitewash incidents or to hide facts. It is the duty of the Ministry of National Security to establish justice.

Mr Athulathmudali said that some people had known beforehand that such events would take place. It was the intention of them to first provoke the students and then drag in trade unions. There had been discussions to this effect. Such organizations were being investigated, and until this was complete, no attempt will be made to identify such persons. Asked whether they have a connection between the extremists of the north and those of the south, he said there seemed to be some link.

Situation Normal in Schools

BK251154 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Jun 84

[Text] All schools in the island functioned as usual. No incident whatsoever was reported from any part of the country. The secretary to the Ministry of Education, (E.L. Vijaymana), told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corp. that schools functioned normally without any disruption of work. Attendance in schools was also normal. He further said that the [Thangalle] Mahavidyalaya [university] has been closed and it would remain so for a week.

A spokesman for the Central Transport Board said the school bus services operated smoothly and not a single child was stranded. He said that the services were better than any other day and the bus schools [as heard] cooperated fully in operating the services without any disruption.

In a statement on the present situation, the minister of national security and acting minister of defense, Lalith Athulathmudali, thanked the student population and the parents for extending their support in maintaining law and order.

Premadasa Hits Opposition Over Campus Violence

BK231129 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] Prime Minister R. Premadasa has condemned efforts made by the opposition to make use of the incident at the Peradeniya University for their political gains. He said that it was the innocent people who suffer finally as a result of such attempts against the government. This is not the time to create differences. Today we have to work together. The country is rapidly progressing toward development. There are certain groups that are jealous about this fact. Therefore, these sections were attempting to create religious differences, disputes among the working people, and trying hard to mislead the schoolchildren.

The prime minister was speaking at a meeting in connection with the handing over of houses at Kekirawa yesterday. Mr Premadasa noted that in any society there were saboteurs and those who were bent on destruction. It was a crime if these saboteurs were trying to disrupt the government efforts to eradicate poverty. Those who wished to defeat the present government should form political organizations, explain things to the people, and come to power through the ballot. He added that the people should, therefore, act cautiously and not be misled.

British Parliamentarians Permitted Entry as Tourists

BK230924 Hong Kong AFP in English 0916 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] Colombo, June 23 (AFP) — Two British parliamentarians who were refused visas to enter Sri Lanka are now to be allowed entry, highly placed sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today.

Labour member Dave Nellist and Conservative Michael Greenway of the House of Commons were due to arrive here tomorrow to study the human rights situation in Sri Lanka.

Acting foreign minister told Sri Lanka's Parliament Thursday that they were denied visas because they were trying to interfere in the country's internal affairs and that they "still live in colonial days."

The two will now be permitted to enter as tourists, the sources said. Sri Lanka, under the name Ceylon, became independent of Britain in 1948.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

No 1,766 - 22 June

LD221724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jun 84

[Text] In its communique No 1,766 the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran reports conditions on the battlefronts as follows:

During the last 24 hours there have been exchanges of heavy arms fire along the length of the forward lines in the northern and northwestern operational sectors, with our artillery units' return fire destroying 11 enemy observation posts and trenches, and setting on fire 2 personnel carriers.

In the southern operational theater exchanges of fire continued to occur, the heaviest of these being in the regions of (Nahr-e Anbar), (Zeyd), Kushk and Talayah. On the various fronts in this region the Islamic combatants sent out reconnaissance patrols and set up observation posts, thus gaining control over enemy movements; and by opening fire they succeeded in preventing their operations and deployments. Known enemy losses were 26 heavy and light arms emplacements; the Saddamist forces' casualties totaled more than 15 dead or wounded.

No 1,767 — 23 June

LD231723 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Communique No 1,767 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Yesterday the fire of the combatants of Islam on Iraqi positions and fortifications in Piranshah, Sardasht and Hajj 'Umran operational regions inflicted considerable damage and casualties on the enemy. The Saddamist mercenaries' heavy weapons fire was stopped; several heavy and light weapons emplacements and one mortar launcher were destroyed; and a number of enemy forces were killed. The exchanges of fire on the Hajj Umran fronts were more intense than those in other places.

On the western fronts the damage and casualties suffered by the enemy included the destruction of five heavy weapons emplacements and observation posts. Two enemy vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed and a number of enemy personnel were killed or wounded. Our forces on these fronts carefully carried out defense instructions, and continued to dispatch patrol groups to enemy defense lines. The patrol groups sent out by the Ground Forces and the Gendarmerie in Mehran and Dehloran regions captured one RPG-7, one machine gun, and three rifles from Iraqi guards and destroyed three of their entrenchments.

The exchanges of fire on (Zayd), Jufayr, and Talayah fronts were more intense than those of other southern fronts. On the Arvand Rud front the combatants of Islam kept an eye on enemy movements and silenced their fire; stopped the Iraqi mercenaries' engineering activities; destroyed 2 loaders and a truck; set fire to 15 heavy and light weapon emplacements, and killed 7 of the Iraqi forces.

No 1,768 — 24 June

LD241724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jun 84

[Communique No 1,768 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] The combatants of Islam opened fire on enemy installations in the northwestern operational region yesterday. Using heavy weapons they disrupted or halted all enemy activities on the ground along the line of contact. In the Hajj 'Umran region 24 Iraqi soldiers were killed and three trenches and observations posts belonging to the Saddamists were destroyed. In the Piranshah and Sardasht regions, our forces silenced enemy fire and killed or wounded 15 of them.

Exchanges of fire continued on the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam and our fighting units opened fire on enemy vehicles on the Qasr-e Shriin—Zahab and Naft Shahr—Mandali supply routes. The mercenaries' logistic activities were disrupted. Visible damage sustained by the enemy in the Western operational regions includes the destruction of two ammunition depots, two foxholes and trenches and three observation posts. The enemy suffered at least five dead or wounded. In the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational regions, our combat units opened fire on enemy positions west of Arvand Rud, as a result of which 23 enemy heavy and light weapons emplacement were destroyed.

Tehran Cites Swedish Correspondent on Tanker Attack

LD250826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Jun 84

[Text] A Swedish correspondent in Beirut, reporting yesterday on the 2-week lull in the Persian Gulf and on the claim yesterday by the Zionist regime ruling Iraq that they attackeda Greek ship in this region, wrote: Iraq's reports have not been confirmed by independent sources, but through this action of Iraq, the 2-weeks lull in the Persian Gulf has once again been violated.

The Swedish correspondent adds: There is no doubt that Iraq is under pressure from the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf region to stop attacking oil tankers. These countries provide the expenses of the war against Iran.

The report continues: The regime in Baghdad is against the idea of halting attacks on ships. Baghdad, which cannot tolerate the heavy expenses of the war and is incapable of resisting the Iranian forces for long, intends to expand the war into an international conflict.

Tanker Continues Voyage

LD251136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jun 84

[Text] The spokesman for the Oil Ministry has announced: The fire on board the Greek tanker, *Alexander the Great*, which was attacked by [illegible] planes near Khark Island yesterday, has been brought under control, thanks to the efforts of the Muslim,

committed workers of the National Iranian Oil Company. The tanker left the area safely.

The captain of the Greek ship, Kekov, in a message, thanked the oil company workers in Khark for their unsparing efforts in bringing the fire under control and sending the ship on its way.

'Source' Links Tanker Attacks, GCC Meeting

LD241130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jun 84

[Text] Quoting independent Kuwaiti maritime sources, AFP reported that this morning an oil tanker was hit by a missile in the Persian Gulf. The AFP report follows this morning's claim by the Iraqi regime to the effect that four maritime targets had been hit in the Persian Gulf.

An informed source has said that attempts by the Iraqi regime to resume its attacks on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf are not unrelated to the meeting of military commanders of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The same source emphasized that the Iraqi regime is trying to influence the meeting's decisions and resort to some form of blackmail.

Iraqi Claim of 'Artillery Attack' Denied

LD230958 Tehran IRNA in English 0952 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters here today categorically denied a claim of the Iraqi regime that the Iranian artillery forces have attacked a village in Basra Province.

The Iraqi regime in its military Communique No. 1,504 of Friday claimed that four Iranian artillery units had opened fire on a village at 11:00 a.m. Friday. The spokesman added that this claim of Iraq is an excuse to justify its future attacks on Iranian civilian areas and also divert the public opinion from Iraqi violation of the agreement reached on refraining from any attack on civilian areas.

Spokesman Denounces Iraqi Claims

LD231138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] Following the recent conspiracy of the Iraqi regime, accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of attacking residential areas, and after the UN secretary-general's suggestion to stop attacks on civilian areas, a spokesman for our Foreign Affairs Ministry announced:

By falsely accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of attacking Sayyid Sadiq and Basra and its reference to the two cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan as the concentration centers for military forces, as indicated in a letter from Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, to the UN secretary-general, the Iraqi regime in fact intends to prepare grounds for a repeated attack on Iran's residential areas.

The spokesman added: The Saddam regime's provocations are taking place at a time when, after the 12 June agreement, the residential areas of Iranian cities have several times been attacked by the Iraqi artillery. All the breaches of the undertaking given by the Iraqi regime separately and also all together have been reported to the UN secretary-general in a letter.

In conclusion, referring to Iraq's claim that the Islamic Republic of Iran has not accepted the UN supervisory delegation, the spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Ministry said:

As Iran's envoy to the UN has reported to the UN authorities, the Islamic Republic of Iran has no objection to the deployment of the UN inspection delegation to Iran. In this connection a delegation of the UN's experts and inspectors, who are in charge of investigating Iraq's violations, will arrive in Tehran on Tuesday, this coming week in order to hold talks with Iranian authorities on the methods and arrangements for the deployment of the UN supervisory team in Tehran.

Military Chiefs Visit Imam Reza Shrine

GF241204 Mashhad Domestic Service in Persian 1900 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, Colonel Salimi, commander of the Islamic Republic Air Force; together with the acting head of the political-ideological department of the Air Force; Brother Mohsen-Reza'i, commander of the Revolutionary Guards Corps; and Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi, the commander of the Islamic Republic Ground Forces, called on Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Va'ez-Tabasi, the imam's representative and custodian of the holy shrine of Imam Reza, and held discussions with him in the hall of the holy shrine. In this meeting they discussed the situation on all fronts.

Also these brothers visited the University of Islamic Affairs, its library and museum of the shrine.

According to the same report, several officials of the Islamic foundation of Fariman district today called on Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Va'ez-Tabasi at the shrine of Imam Reza. In this meeting one of the brothers reported on affairs in the district to the imam's representative.

Reports on Reinforcements Leaving for War Fronts

Hamedan Volunteers Leave

GF230546 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] Simultaneous with the valor of the Islamic combatants on the fronts of the imposed war, the departure of the revolutionary and God-fearing youths of our country for the battlefronts continues as usual. At the conclusion of the Friday prayer ceremonies by the people of Hamedan yesterday, thousands of courageous combatants of the city and districts of Hamedan Province left for the battlefronts yesterday. Please listen to a report in this regard:

[Begin unidentified correspondent's recording] In continuation of the mobilization of the people's forces for the fronts of epics and honor, more than 1,500 persons from the courageous combatants of Hamedan and neighboring districts, consisting of the forces of Fath-2, Labbayk ya Khomeyni plan and the brothers who are being dispatched again, who had been organized into Ramadan companies, left for the fronts, accompanied by some member of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] of Hamedan at the conclusion of the inspiring Friday prayers this week in Hamedan.

After special ceremonies at Hamedan Abuzar base and at Imam Khomeyni Square (?of this city) attended by Ayatollah Nuri-Hamedani, the imam's deputy and the Friday imam of Hamedan; Mr Saleh, the Hamedan governor-general; and some local officials, thousands of fasting martyr-nurturing people from various sections of Hamedan departed for the bloody fronts of our Islamic country in a warm sendoff with shouts of "War, war until victory."

Coinciding with the departure of these brothers, more than 1,000 persons of the Fath-2, Labbayk ya Khomeyni plan and brothers who are being dispatched again from various districts of Hamedan Province from the cities of Nahavand, Malayer, (Puserkon), and Asadabad districts left for the fronts of truth versus falsehood. [end unidentified correspondent's recording]

2,000 Combatants Dispatched

LD241758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jun 84

[Text] This evening, as more courageous combatants of the army of Islam join the fronts of the war of right against falsehood, about 2000 people from the mobilization force who were being redispatched, and from the Labbayk ya Khomeyni plan of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps 10th district, left for the war fronts from Imam Hasan garrison. They were warmly seen off by the hezbollahi community and by the families of the combatants.

'Warriors' Throughout Country Leave

LD251001 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 25 Jun 84

[Excerpt] Several battalions from the Al-Quds reserve battalions and thousands of the self-sacricing warriors of the Guards Corps and the mobilization forces of Esfahan's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps have also left the city for battlefronts of the war against the aggressive forces of the Iraqi Zionist regime, following enthusiastic send-off ceremonies arranged by the people of this city. Also in continuation of the departure of Imam Husayn's followers to battlefronts of the imposed war, during the past 2 days a large group of self-sacrificing mobilization forces and Revolution Guards Corps members left for the battlefronts against the Zionist enemy from the provinces of Bushehr, Hamadan and Semnan, and the cities of Ahvaz, Heyshabur, Shirvan, Bandar 'Abbas, Karaj, Kashan, Tabriz, Ardabil, Mashhad, Yazd, Ardestan and (Shahr-e Kord). During the same period, a large group of brother technicians and experts left the cities of Shiraz and Damghan for reconstruction work in the war-damaged areas of our country.

President Decries U.S.-Imposed Flight Restrictions

LD232010 Tehran IRNA in English 1936 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA — The world arrogant powers are trying to impose their false view on the world that the Islamic Republic is a threat to the Persian Gulf, President 'Ali Khamene'i said.

Speaking to members of the Islamic Propagation Organisation (IPO), the president said the United States did not have the right to impose flight restrictions in a region belonging to the people of that region.

"They want to force it to the world with propaganda that the Persian Gulf region is threatened by the Islamic Revolution while this is not true."

"What does this mean that America says, for instance, to the people who belong to the region that your planes cannot fly a few kilometres away from our fleet?"

"When we present this issue in the world, the nations, the United Nations, the Non-aligned Movement and all international and major organisations of the world must cry out and say that Iran is right.

"But we hear not a sound from the nations or a complaint from the governments," Khamene'i said.

He advised the IPO to counter the propaganda against the Islamic Republic with up-to-date methods and strong management in order to carry out their responsibility in the best manner possible.

France Asked To Arrest, Extradite Hijackers

LD231656 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] In connection with the hijacked Islamic Republic plane the French charge d'affaires was summoned to our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry for the second time. It was emphasized that the Iranian hijacked plane is not a military aircraft. In view of the return to Iran of four of the plane's passengers, who had been taken hostage by intimidation and threatening, the French Government was asked to arrest and extradite the plane hijackers in accordance with the agreement signed between the two countries on extraditing criminals. The French Government was also asked to prevent the hijackers from escaping to other countries.

Government Claims U.S. Supplied Mustard Gas to Iraq

LD241708 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 24 Jun 84

[Text] Tehran, June 24 IRNA — The United States was involved in supplying Iraq with the banned mustard gas, in its war against

Iran. According to documents obtained from a U.S. Air Force base in Spain, at least 2,000 kilograms of mustard gas arrived at this base via California on January 21, '84 and was dispatched to Baghdad the next day.

According to the documents available at the War Information Headquarters of the Supreme Defence Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran the mustard gas sold to Iraq was transferred from California to Torrejon base in Spain by two special flights of U.S. Air Force and was sent to Baghdad via Larisa route at 05:30 hours the next day.

The documents also said that the mustard gas was delivered in a solid form to Iraq.

The gas was transferred to Baghdad before the Khaybar operation launched by the Islamic combatants in February this year, and was used against the Iranian forces in this operation.

Groups of the wounded victims of this Iraqi war crime were dispatched to medical centres in Europe and Japan to reveal the depth of this brutal act of Saddam and his Western and Eastern allies. As a result some of the Western mass media were forced to reflect this reality and in order to keep the confidence of the public opinion, they protested the Iraqi employment of chemical gas without mentioning the country which supplied Iraq with the banned gas.

U.S. Denies Charge

LD251106 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 25 Jun 84

[Excerpts] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — The U.S. State Department on Sunday denied U.S. shipment of mustard gas to Iraq; however, it did not give any explanation on the details of documents disclosed in this respect.

A spokesman for the Defence Department, which according to the documents obtained for a U.S. Air Force base in Spain, has been responsible for delivery of 2,000 kgs of banned mustard gas to the Iraqi regime, while denying the report declined to give any further comment.

The U.S. officials have so far declined to provide any reason for their denial.

Friday Imam on Upcoming Jerusalem Day

LD221445 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jun 84

[Excerpt] On the eve of International Jerusalem Day, millions of our Muslim compatriots observed the auspicious political-religious Friday prayers ceremonies throughout the country today. Tehran's fasting Muslim citizens, too, with their massive presence at Tehran University and in the surrounding thoroughfares, carried out today's glorious Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i today.

At the outset of his second sermon, Tehran's Friday imam, referring to the upcoming anniversary of the martyrdom of the oppressed martyr, Ayatollah Beheshti, and 72 true friends of the imam, paid tribute to the martyrs of that day and, referring to the significance of International Jerusalem Day, due to be observed next Friday, said:

International Jerusalem Day, proclaimed by the imam of the Islamic Nation, has been coupled with appropriate reactions and responses among the world's nations, as they fully appreciate the significance of observing Jerusalem Day. However, the governments, regrettably, have not given a positive response in this respect. Although Jerusalem Day has been proclaimed in certain countries, we nevertheless once again propose to the Islamic world the observance of Jerusalem Day and say: Jerusalem Day is a living day. For us, the issue of Jerusalem is not only geographical. The issue goes beyond that. It is incumbent on Muslims, whenever polytheists transgress against a part of the Islamic homeland, to remove that transgression; the problem does not merely rest there, since the problem opens a firm foothold for U.S. hegemonistic policies. When one power secures a foothold, other powers, too, will find a foothold. Whenever nations gave a foothold to global arrogance, their independence was lost.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i, expounding on the colonialist and exploitive aims pursued by the United States in the region by its setting up the regime occupying Jerusalem, then said the following:

[Begin Khamene'i recording] From the outset, when our revolution began, when the Islamic movement began, since 1963, the imam made one of his fundamental plans to be that of waging struggle against Israel. Now, too, the struggle against and opposition to Israel constitutes the top of the agenda and one of the major aspects of our foreign policy. We are not prepared to tolerate the continued presence of a usurper who, with the passage of time, has passed himself off as part of the domestic scene, as a natural phenomenon who foisted himself as such so much so that today even the traditional adversaries of Zionism — when they wish to speak of the Zionists — no longer mention the question of the destruction of the Zionist system since they have been convinced that Israel, this imposed reality, should remain, and that this reality should forever weigh on the neck of the Islamic and Arab nation. We resolutely reject this.

In all the issues which are taking place, whether in Africa or in the Middle East, we are witnessing the influence of Zionist policy and the securing of footholds for ever-increasing intervention by U.S. policy. Regarding the circumstances of this imposed war in our region, for a long time no one was prepared to admit that U.S. policy and, concomitantly, Zionist policy, support this war and Iraq's attack against us. The Zionists themselves most certainly were interested in directing Iraq toward our borders and setting Iraqis at the throat of the revolutionary state of Iran. Iraq's military forces like that of Jordan's, Egypt's, and other military forces existing in this region, are duty-bound to wage war against Israel, are duty-bound to aim their guns at the borders of usurped Palestine, occupied by the usurping Zionists. Who is turning these guns in another direction? Who is forcing Iraq to embark toward its eastern borders, to come toward the

state of Iran, a country built on the basis of Islam and the Koran, instead of embarking toward Israel?

This is nothing else but policies backing the Zionists! This is amply clear. It is not for nothing that our people refer to the Iraqi regime as Zionist Ba'thist regime. This is the very fact of the matter: It is a regime which has been at the service of the Zionists, a regime which has waged war against the Islamic revolution for the Zionists, on their behalf, and, indeed, as a precursor to safeguarding them. To begin with, instead of its forces being directed toward the borders of occupied Palestine, they have been directed in this direction; secondly, they preoccupied Iran's revolutionary forces whose prime task was to wage struggle against Israel. Could there be any greater service to the Zionists?

When these devilries and wicked deeds of the Iraqi 'Aflaqite regime began in the Persian Gulf, and when the state of the Islamic Republic and our fighting forces decisively slapped the Ba'thist regime and the Ba'thist aggressors in the mouth, making their presence felt in the Gulf, then that the Zionists speak openly of what they have hidden for a long time, saying: Should our interests be endangered in the Persian Gulf, or should we be threatened, then we too would intervene. How could Israel be threatened in the Persian Gulf? The only threat to Israel in the Persian Gulf is posed once the Iraqi regime is utterly defeated in this region. It is this that frightens the the Zionists into feeling threatened, into feeling that the released force of the Islamic Revolution would be set at their throat. I declare that the day when the Islamic Republic can release itself from this path of the imposed war and — God willing, it will conclude the war victoriously — is that very day when the Islamic revolution will move toward the Zionists and utterly extirpate this cancer. [deafening cheers]

Jerusalem Day is one of the most important days in the world of Islam. Jerusalem Day should remind us of usurped Jerusalem! It should remind us of our duty! And the Islamic countries and Islamic governments, instead of opposing their people for holding demonstrations on Jerusalem Day, they should help them. This is the duty of all Muslims, whether in the Arab or in the non-Arab countries. And this year, we, as in all other years, urgently call on all Islamic governments and responsible authorities in Islamic governments and responsible authorities in Islamic countries to hold Jerusalem Day dear so as to enable and encourage their people — God willing — to observe Jerusalem Day most gloriously as a crushing fist aimed at the United States and Zionism! [end recording]

Velayati Addresses Islamic States' Envoys on War

LD232019 Tehran IRNA in English 2000 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] Tehran June 23 IRNA — Foreign Minister Velayati said here today that neither the Iraqi imposed war nor the all-out efforts by "the unholy alliance of blasphemy and oppression" against the Islamic Revolution, "have ever been able to force us to retreat from the pursuit of the Islamic and strategic slogan of anti-Zionist struggle in our foreign policy."

Speaking to ambassadors and representatives of the Islamic countries to the Islamic Republic here at the Foreign Ministry, Dr. Velayati further said "the fact of the matter is that were we to abandon one of the basic principles of our foreign policy because of a 44-month-old imposed war, imperialism would never hesitate to create new obstacles in the way of our pursuit of other fundamental principles of the revolution."

The foreign minister said it was incumbent upon all Muslims to solidify their ranks, in the course of the holy month of Ramadan, for the realisation of the exalted words of Allah, and make joint efforts, through unity and solidarity of all Muslim nations, against the common enemies of the Islamic ummah. "At the present juncture, the Islamic world is plagued with truly tragic situations in the lands of Palestine, Lebanon and Afghanistan, to name only a few. The most pressing and yet the most chronic problem facing the Islamic world is the existence of the cancerous tumor of the Zionist entity." Velayati said anti-Zionist struggle has been one of the pillars of the foreign policy of the Islamic republic of Iran.

Speaking further on the Iraqi imposed war, the foreign minister said that the world public opinion in general and the foreign ambassadors and representatives in Tehran in particular, were well aware of the fact that "for us the war is purely defensive. Defensive in the sense that we are defending, with all at our disposal, the values, principles, ideals and achievements of the Islamic Revolution."

Enumerating the Iraqi regime's violation of all humanitarian norms and international conventions during the war, Dr. Velayati said in another part of his remarks "...[IRNA ellipses] in further continuation of its aggressive policy, the Iraqi regime initiated attacks on commercial vessels in the Persian Gulf. One cannot but arrive at the inevitable conclusion that all these problems and difficulties arise from the very initiation of the war itself. If the freedom of navigation is jeopardised, the main cause is to be found in the initiation of the war. If economic hardships and security problems befall the countries in the region the responsibility rests solely with the warmongers who started the war..." [IRNA ellipses]

Energy Minister Meets With Visiting Soviets

LD231412 Tehran IRNA in English 1347 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA — Energy Minister Hasan Ghafuri-Fard and his deputies held separate talks with the visiting Soviet energy delegation headed by Deputy Power and Electricity Minister, Aleksey Makukhin, today.

The two sides discussed issues pertaining to the completion of expansion of power plants under joint construction in Iran.

They studied the expansion of bilateral cooperation in the fields of water and energy.

The Soviet delegation arrived here Thursday. Upon his arrival, Mr. Makukhin expressed hope that issues between the two countries would be resolved and steps taken for examining cooperation in the field of energy.

In a visit by Energy Minister Ghafuri-Fard to the Soviet Union in 1361 (1982-83), an agreement was reached on the construction of a 100,000 kilowatt power plant on each side of the Aras River which borders the two countries west of the Caspian Sea.

The Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union also signed a protocol last year to set up a dam on the Atrek River which borders the two countries west of Caspian Sea.

According to the protocol Iran would utilise 50 percent of the Atrek River.

Soviet Meets Plant Director

LD241454 Tehran IRNA in English 1429 GMT 24 Jun 84

[Text] Tehran June 24, IRNA — Soviet Deputy Power and Electricity Minister Aleksey Makukhin met and conferred with the managing director of Tavanir (production and transfer of energy) Company, Mr. Nemhizhdeh, here today.

The two sides discussed construction activities underway at Esfahan and Ahvaz power plants.

Makukhin met yesterday with Energy Minister Hasan Ghafuri-Fard and discussed the completion of power plants under joint construction in Iran.

The Soviet delegation arrived in Tehran on Thursday, June 21.

USSR Official Visits Esfahan

LD250924 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 25 Jun 84

[Text] Esfahan, June 25, IRNA — Soviet Deputy Power and Electricity Minister Aleksey Makukhin and his delegation arrived in Esfahan today.

The Soviet official and his companions were welcomed by local authorities and consulate general of the Soviet Union there.

The delegation is due to visit the under construction 800-megawatt power station of martyr Mohammad Montazeri and the two sides would discuss further speeding up of the project.

The Soviet delegation arrived in Tehran on June 21.

Majlis Deputy Requests USSR Halt Arms Sales to Iraq

LD241126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jun 84

[Excerpts] Our correspondent reports that three deputies spoke at today's open meeting of the Majlis.

In his pre-agenda speech, Sadeq Khalkhali, the deputy for Qom, spoke about and praised the cohesive move by Islamic combatants at the battlefront, the arrival of International Jerusalem Day and its commemoration by Muslims, as well as the need for the elimination of the Zionist Iraqi regime, which acts as a stumbling bloc to reaching Jerusalem.

Referring to the presence of a Soviet delegation in Iran, he said: It must understand the Islamic Republic and how it is standing up to America. The USSR should therefore refrain from handing over missiles and weapons — which are destroying our civilian areas — to the puppet Iraqi Government. Concluding his remarks, he asked for attention to be paid to Khalkhal's agriculture.

Majlis Debates Credentials of Deputies

LD241248 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jun 84

[Text] Our correspondent reports on today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Islamic Consultative Assembly met in session this morning, chaired by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During this session, the Majlis permanent presidium took part in the oath-taking ceremonies, and afterwards a report of the 15 branches of the Majlis on the elections files were raised. The credentials of the following deputies were approved: Messrs Seyeed Nurmohammad Mahmudian, from (Boyer Ahmad); Ramezan Rowhani-Nia, from (Sepidan); Musa Salimi, from Mianeh; Manuchehr (Kalimi-Rusta), for the Jewish minority; Ashur (Falanspur), for the Asyrian and Chaldea minority; Parviz Malekpur, for the Zoroastrian minority; 'Ali Parizad, from Naqadeh; and Seyeed Motahhar Kazemi, from Khalkhal.

The credentials of the following deputies were referred to the investigation commission: Messrs Seyyed Abolhasan Musavi, from Rudbar; [Judge] Sadeq Khalkhali, from Qom; Ahmad Bigdeli-Azari, from Qom; and Hasan Ebrahimi, from [name indistinct].

Also in the course of this session, a report by the investigation commission on approval of the elections files of Messrs Mohammad 'Ali 'Arabi, from Kashmar, and Mohammad Hasan 'Alari, from Gorgan — which had been referred to this commission — was raised, and after voting the credentials of the said deputies were approved.

The Islamic Consultative Assembly will hold another open session tomorrow.

Mauritanians, Polisario Recruited for Gulf War

NC221523 Paris AFP in English 1505 GMT 22 Jun 84

[Text] Rabat, June 22 (AFP) — Iranian officers are currently in Mauritania on a drive to sign up both Mauritanians and guerrillas from the neighbouring Western Sahara territory to go and fight for Iran in the Gulf war, a Mauritanian opposition leader said here today.

Khadri Ould Dic, founder of the recently-created Organization of Mauritanian Nationalists, said in an interview with AGENCE

FRANCE-PRESSE that recruitment into the Iranian Army for Mauritanians was purely voluntary.

However, "because of the famine into which the policy of (Mauritanian President) Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala has plunged their country, several dozen Mauritanians have signed up to go and swell the ranks of Khomeyni's army which is fighting our Iraqi brothers," he said, referring to Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

(?Members) of the Polisario front guerrilla organization, which is fighting to gain independence from Morocco for the Western Sahara, were also being recruited into the Iranian Army, Mr Die said.

The Iranian officers arrived in the north-west African country over a week ago, he added.

In an interview with AFP on June 13, Lieutenant-Colonel Haydala charged that the Organization of Mauritanian Nationalists had been set up by Morocco, which opposes Mauritania on the issue of the Western Sahara.

In a press statement published in Paris on Tuesday, Mr Die denied the Mauritanian president's charge.

Iran has been at war with Iraq since September 1980.

Kuwaiti Police Deport 99 More Iranians

LD241915 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jun 84

[Text] During the past few days, the Kuwaiti police deported another 99 Iranians living in that country, from Kuwait. The deported Iranians arrived at the Bushehr and Genavi ports via the Persian Gulf by several motor launches. They were housed at a special camp for the deportees.

Chile Shipping Cluster Bombs to Iraq

LD231554 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 23 Jun 84

[Text] Tripoli, June 23, IRNA — An Iraqi cargo loaded with a consignment of cluster bombs worth 35 million dollars left Santiago, Chile Friday for Iraq, said a spokesman of the Kardon company of Chile which manufactures the bombs.

According to reports of the Libyan daily *AL-FAJR AL-* 1*HID* Thursday's issue of June 14, the Kardon plant's spokesman said that the consignment was a partial shipment of the 5,000 cluster bombs ordered by Iraq four months ago to be used against the Islamic Republic in the Iraqi-imposed war.

Kuwait Daily on Presence of U.S. Experts in Iran

GF221834 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 21 Jun 84 p 1

[Text] Arab political source have disclosed to *AL-ANBA'* information that has been reported by diplomatic circles in the French capital about the presence of U.S. military and economic experts in Iran and about their secret arrival in small groups several months ago. The military experts are reorganizing the Iranian Army on the whole and are retraining pilots, particularly helicopter pilots, as well as retraining and preparing tehnical cadres to work on radar, on computers, and on the navigation of aircraft and ships. The source added that Iranian officials have started seeing positive results of the process of reorganizing and retraining, particularly in the Air Force which has so far produced good results, and that these results may lead to making use of more such experts in the future.

As for the economic experts, they offer technical advice to the Iranians on some economic aspects, particularly with regard to some industries and their development. The sources said that all of these experts were brought in by American companies and institutions and with the knowledge of the U.S. Administration.

Byelections To Be Held 9 Aug, 14 Sep

LD241241 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jun 84

[Text] The interior minister has announced: Since the Council of Guardians declared null and void the election results of several constituencies, the byelections for these constituencies will be held on Thursday, 9 August, in accordance with Note 2 of Article 8 of the elections law. The byelections' date coincides with the anniversary of the auspicious birthday of the eighth imam, 'Ali Ebn-e Musa ar-Reza — peace be upon him. The constitencies for which byelections will be held are: Shiraz, Esfahan, Faridan, (Khomeyni-Shahr), Amol, (Qa'emshahr), (?Bushehr), Nur, Shahriar, Kuhdasht, Jiroft and Darab. The candidates for the above constituencies have 7 days for registration beginning 28 June.

By-elections will also be held for the constituencies of Moghan, (Zardaghan) and Fasa and the Armenian minority of the country's southern regions on Friday, 14 September, coinciding with the auspicious feast of Ghadir.